

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method for sharing a secure communication
2 session with a client between a plurality of servers, comprising:
3 receiving a message from the client at a first server in the plurality of
4 servers, the message including a session identifier that identifies a secure
5 communication session with the client; and
6 if the session identifier does not correspond to an active secure
7 communication session on the first server, establishing an active secure
8 communication session with the client on the first server by,
9 attempting to retrieve state information associated with the
10 session identifier for an active secure communication session
11 between the client and a second server from the plurality of servers
12 by the first server, wherein the state information includes
13 encryption keys used to encrypt communications between the
14 client and the second server, wherein the first server is different
15 from the second server,
16 if the state information for the active secure communication
17 session is retrieved, using the state information including the
18 encryption keys to share the active secure communication session
19 established between the client and the second server for subsequent
20 communications between the client and the first server without
21 having to set up a new secure communication session between the

22 client and the first server, wherein the state information is purged
23 from the second server after the state information is retrieved by
24 the first server, wherein sharing the active secure communication
25 session allows a single SSL session to be simultaneously shared by
26 multiple servers, and
27 if the state information for the active secure communication
28 session is not retrieved, communicating with the client to establish
29 the active secure communication session with the client.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein attempting to retrieve the
2 state information includes:
3 attempting to use the session identifier to identify the second server in the
4 plurality of servers that has an active secure communication session with the
5 client that corresponds to the session identifier; and
6 attempting to retrieve the state information from the second server.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein attempting to retrieve the
2 state information involves attempting to retrieve the state information from a
3 centralized repository that is in communication with the plurality of servers.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the centralized repository
2 includes a database for storing the state information.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the active
2 secure communication session involves establishing a secure sockets layer (SSL)
3 connection with the client.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the state information
2 includes:

3 a session encryption key for the secure communication session;
4 the session identifier for the secure communication session; and
5 a running message digest for the secure communication session.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
2 using the message to update the running message digest; and
3 checkpointing the updated running message digest to a location outside of
4 the first server.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the state
2 information for the active secure communication session is retrieved, purging the
3 state information from a location from which the state information was retrieved,
4 so that the state information cannot be subsequently retrieved by another server in
5 the plurality of servers.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising initially
2 establishing an active secure communication session between the client and the
3 second server, the active secure communication session being identified by the
4 session identifier.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein attempting to retrieve the
2 state information includes authenticating and authorizing the first server.

1 11-12 (Canceled).

1 13. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a
3 method for sharing a secure communication session with a client between a
4 plurality of servers, the method comprising:
5 receiving a message from the client at a first server in the plurality of
6 servers, the message including a session identifier that identifies a secure
7 communication session with the client; and
8 if the session identifier does not correspond to an active secure
9 communication session on the first server, establishing an active secure
10 communication session with the client on the first server by,
11 attempting to retrieve state information associated with the
12 session identifier for an active secure communication session
13 between the client and a second server from the plurality of servers
14 by the first server, wherein the state information includes
15 encryption keys used to encrypt communications between the
16 client and the second server, wherein the first server is different
17 from the second server,
18 if the state information for the active secure communication
19 session is retrieved, using the state information including the
20 encryption keys to share the active secure communication session
21 established between the client and the second server for subsequent
22 communications between the client and the first server without
23 having to set up a new secure communication session between the
24 client and the first server, wherein the state information is purged
25 from the second server after the state information is retrieved by
26 the first server, wherein sharing the active secure communication
27 session allows a single SSL session to be simultaneously shared by
28 multiple servers, and

29 if the state information for the active secure communication
30 session is not retrieved, communicating with the client to establish
31 the active secure communication session with the client.

1 14. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein attempting to retrieve the state information includes:
3 attempting to use the session identifier to identify the second server in the
4 plurality of servers that has an active secure communication session with the
5 client that corresponds to the session identifier; and
6 attempting to retrieve the state information from the second server.

1 15. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein attempting to retrieve the state information involves attempting to
3 retrieve the state information from a centralized repository that is in
4 communication with the plurality of servers.

1 16. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15,
2 wherein the centralized repository includes a database for storing the state
3 information.

1 17. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein establishing the active secure communication session involves
3 establishing a secure sockets layer (SSL) connection with the client.

1 18. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein the state information includes:
3 a session encryption key for the secure communication session;
4 the session identifier for the secure communication session; and

5 a running message digest for the secure communication session.

1 19. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18,
2 wherein the method further comprises:
3 using the message to update the running message digest; and
4 checkpointing the updated running message digest to a location outside of
5 the first server.

1 20. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein the method further comprises, if the state information for the active
3 secure communication session is retrieved, purging the state information from a
4 location from which the state information was retrieved, so that the state
5 information cannot be subsequently retrieved by another server in the plurality of
6 servers.

1 21. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein the method further comprises initially establishing an active secure
3 communication session between the client and the second server, the active secure
4 communication session being identified by the session identifier.

1 22. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein attempting to retrieve the state information includes authenticating and
3 authorizing the first server.

1 23-24 (Canceled).

1 25. (Currently amended) An apparatus that shares a secure communication
2 session with a client between a plurality of servers, comprising:

3 a receiving mechanism, at a first server in the plurality of servers, that
4 receives a message from the client, the message including a session identifier that
5 identifies a secure communication session with the client;
6 an examination mechanism that examines the session identifier; and
7 a session initialization mechanism, on the first server, wherein if the
8 session identifier does not correspond to an active secure communication session
9 on the first server, the session initialization mechanism is configured to establish
10 an active secure communication session with the client by,
11 attempting to retrieve state information associated with the
12 session identifier for an active secure communication session
13 between the client and a second server from the plurality of servers
14 by the first server, wherein the state information includes
15 encryption keys used to encrypt communications between the
16 client and the second server, wherein the first server is different
17 from the second server,
18 if the state information for the active secure communication
19 session is retrieved, using the state information including the
20 encryption keys to share the active secure communication session
21 established between the client and the second server for subsequent
22 communications between the client and the first server without
23 having to set up a new secure communication session between the
24 client and the first server, wherein the state information is purged
25 from the second server after the state information is retrieved by
26 the first server, wherein sharing the active secure communication
27 session allows a single SSL session to be simultaneously shared by
28 multiple servers, and

29 if the state information for the active secure communication
30 session is not retrieved, communicating with the client to establish
31 the active secure communication session with the client.

1 26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the session initialization
2 mechanism is configured to attempt to retrieve the state information by:
3 attempting to use the session identifier to identify the second server in the
4 plurality of servers that has an active secure communication session with the
5 client that corresponds to the session identifier; and
6 attempting to retrieve the state information from the second server.

1 27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the session initialization
2 mechanism is configured to attempt to retrieve the state information by attempting
3 to retrieve the state information from a centralized repository that is in
4 communication with the plurality of servers.

1 28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the centralized
2 repository includes a database for storing the state information.

1 29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the active secure
2 communication session includes a secure sockets layer (SSL) connection with the
3 client.

1 30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the state information
2 includes:
3 a session encryption key for the secure communication session;
4 the session identifier for the secure communication session; and
5 a running message digest for the secure communication session.

1 31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising an updating
2 mechanism that is configured to:
3 use the message to update the running message digest; and to
4 checkpoint the updated running message digest to a location outside of the
5 first server.

1 32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a purging
2 mechanism that is configured to purge the state information from a location from
3 which the state information was retrieved, so that the state information cannot be
4 subsequently retrieved by another server in the plurality of servers.

1 33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the session initialization
2 mechanism is configured to authenticate and authorize the first server prior to
3 receiving the state information.

1 34-35 (Canceled).